

we can reach some agreement on a balanced budget. I also believe there will be a meeting on Saturday afternoon, maybe into the evening. We do not expect any rollcall votes during Friday's session of the Senate.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES AND A BALANCED BUDGET

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, it had been our thought we might remain in session tonight because the House may take action with reference to our deeming resolution which passed here the other day. There will be a House Republican conference at 7 o'clock. They have not yet passed, and I do not know precisely what, if anything, will pass, but we wanted to be here if something passed later this evening. I now understand that would be objected to—an effort to do it tonight—so if there is any action it would come tomorrow. I had hoped we would do it tonight because if it passed Federal employees could be back to work tomorrow morning. I know that is the hope of the Senator from Virginia who has been working on this on a daily basis. We have had meetings throughout the day on the balanced budget amendment and we have also talked about Federal employees. Speaker GINGRICH is very forthcoming. I know he has been in meetings throughout the day.

I think all of us regret the deadline of January 3 passed without reaching a balanced budget agreement. We have not given up. We will be back, as I said, negotiating tomorrow afternoon and probably Saturday afternoon. I would say perhaps by the weekend or sometime early next week we probably ought to have some agreement—or disagreement, maybe; that we cannot put it together. But we have not reached that point yet. I will keep everybody informed.

If there are any rollcall votes, as I have indicated to the Democratic leader, Senator DASCHLE, there would be at least 24 hours' notice provided to our colleagues.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I again salute our distinguished majority leader. I know how hard he has worked on this.

I have been in consultation with my colleagues from Virginia in the House of Representatives, and most specifi-

cally Congressman DAVIS, here, within the hour.

As you state, the House will have its caucus tonight. I, just speaking for myself, am optimistic, without going into the details, that there will be some action. Therefore, if that is done, it is likely that this body, the Senate, would review it tomorrow, would that be correct?

Mr. DOLE. I would do it as quickly as we can. I thought if the House took it up in the morning it might be finished at 11 o'clock and we could take it up at any time it comes from the House.

I will say, as I said before, some of our House colleagues have a different view of this than some of us in the Senate; maybe not all of us in the Senate. But I also add, at least this Senator has been here the last couple of weeks doing a lot of the heavy lifting. We explored almost every option I can think of to get people back to work. I know that is the view of all the House Members, both Republicans and Democrats, that they should be working and they should be paid, and you should not pay people for not working. In this case the workers are willing.

I hope there will be some positive measure to come from the House tomorrow so we can take it up and pass it very quickly and then get back to where we ought to be, back on our message. Our message is balancing the budget over the next 7 years. It is not a Government shutdown. Our message is to balance the budget. That is what the American people want us to focus on, on both sides of the aisle. That, and a number of other issues like welfare reform and tax cuts for families with children.

In my view, the other message is an impediment. If you watch the evening news tonight you will probably see two or three stories on the Government shutdown but not one on the balanced budget, not one. So I think somewhere along the way we have gotten off message. I hope things will move along here, we will get back, get our work done.

I would think Members on both sides would like some free time this month or next month because we have sort of gone around the calendar here.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, again, I commend my distinguished colleague and friend, the majority leader. I know full well, having shared many of the

hours here over the past couple of weeks with you, that you have done more than your share of the heavy lifting and you have explored in a very objective way, recognizing the diversity of views within our own party as well as across America. But the keystone is the balanced budget using the CBO figures. I am hopeful the President will recognize that obligation on his part to send to the Congress, as early as possible, such a balanced budget.

I think, when the history is written on this, the turning point in this classic chapter of our history will be when the distinguished majority leader stood right here, and I was privileged to be on the floor, and you said those important words, "Enough is enough." That was the turning point.

Mr. DOLE. I thank Congressman WOLF and Congressman DAVIS and also Congresswoman MORELLA, because they have been working with us, with the Senator, with our office, and I know they have been working on the House side. They may be in a little better position to appreciate the importance of some early action because they have a great number of Federal employees in their districts. Obviously, they are very concerned.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President I would like to add Congressman BATEMAN. He joined with us in our regular daily meetings today because a significant part of the Federal establishment in Virginia is in the Tidewater, of which he is a Representative.

Mr. DOLE. That is true.

RECESS UNTIL 11 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. DOLE. If there be no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now stand in recess under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:54 p.m., recessed until Friday, January 5, 1996, at 11 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate January 4, 1996:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

STUART E. EIZENSTAT, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE, VICE JEFFREY E. GARTEN, RESIGNED.